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## Warm Weekend

This weekend is expected to be warm and sunny with highs in the 60s.  
Weekend Weather, Page 8

The University of Nebraska at Omaha

# Gateway

Volume 94 • Issue 43 • Friday, February 24, 1995

Making it  
Count

May senior Shonna  
Tryon will run out onto the  
home court for the last time  
this weekend. **Non Profit Org**  
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## Engineering Education Moves Forward at UNO

By Kate Kalamaja

With the high demands more and more businesses such as Micron Technology Inc. have today, especially with the importance of location and need, the University of Nebraska (NU) system announced it was ahead of schedule in addressing the needs of state engineering education.

NU leaders spoke on the university system's progress toward improving the engineering program at a press conference Wednesday in the UNO Alumni Center.

Three main issues highlighted the press conference.

One, to specify what type of degrees, courses and programs the NU Board of Regents recommended in December and when they would be created. Two, efforts at UNO and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) are under way to create a new program to address the needs in the field of information science.

The program would incorporate elements of computer science and management information systems, said NU President L. Dennis Smith.

Three, the major research effort in material science and chip development in the NU system will be made available to industries such as Micron, Smith said, "with either direct collaboration at their site, or having faculty participate at UNO in the new applied engineering building."

UNO Chancellor Del Weber announced a new area which UNO is planning to focus.

See Engineering, Page 6



—Scott Kemper

UNO Chancellor Del Weber, left, and NU President L. Dennis Smith announce plans for a new engineering program at UNO Wednesday.

## Work Study, Pell Grants Face Cuts

## New Vice Chancellor: 'Education Life-long'

By Anne Marie Krahulec

The recent announcement of the Republican Party's Contract with America educational cuts have been the center of controversy since its announcement early this year.

Both the Democratic representatives and educational services representatives have criticized the policy due to its dramatic spending cuts in the areas of Pell Grants, student-based work programs, governmental student loans and other governmentally funded educational programs.

These dramatic cuts would affect both private and public universities and colleges across the country.

"We here in the department are quite concerned about the recent announcements (cutting programs)," said Nancy Nish, director of Career Planning and Placement Services.

How will this effect the students in Nebraska?

In a recent *Omaha World-Herald* article, Creighton University President Rev. Michael Morrison said, "The Contract With America—or the Contract on America, as some people call it, calls for the abolition of various student financial aid programs."

Nish said the cuts would not only occur in the private

universities, but the public universities as well.

According to the Congressional Record Document, some of the government-funded programs which might be eliminated are programs with the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health.

The record also states the Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship program which provides postgraduate opportunities to multicultural students, and the work study program which provides students with the opportunity to help fellow students on campus in various jobs while paying for their education, may also be cut.

"Students rely highly on student employment, funding and other forms of financial aid. Without them, many would have to take out loans that would increase the amount of money they would have to pay per year," Nish said.

Nish also said the average increase of debt for an undergraduate degree would increase over \$3,000 to \$4,000, due to federal cuts.

The increase is due to the proposed abolishment of an interest subsidy on certain government and locally-based loans that allow students to pay interest only after their graduation.

See Spending, Page 2

By Walter Hester

Vision, integrity and principle are just a few things Ernest Peck, newly named vice chancellor of academic affairs and dean of Graduate Studies and research, is expected to bring to UNO.

Peck, currently the dean of mathematics and science at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV), was named vice chancellor last week and is expected to take his new job on July 1, pending University of Nebraska Board of Regents' approval.

In a press release, UNO Chancellor Del Weber, who appointed Peck, said, "He is an outstanding scholar and a tested administrator. He will provide sound leadership to our academic endeavors."

"I have always pursued two personal and professional goals: excellence and equity," Peck said. "As far as what I can bring to UNO, one has to get to know the culture first. I don't

See Peck, Page 4

## New Master's Degree to Meet Business Needs

By Mindy Hauptman

UNO moved a step closer in trying to meet the needs of the business community this past weekend, said Justin Stolen, chairman of UNO's information systems and quantitative analysis department.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved a new master's degree for UNO last Saturday.

UNO will offer a master's of science degree in management information systems as a graduate program.

MIS is a way of applying the use of computers for the basis of business problem solving.

Stolen has been working on this project for three years.

"This degree involves the intersection of the business world and the computer world," Stolen said.

"In the summer of 1991, our department and the department of computer science did a survey of the businesses in Omaha to find out what the businesses really needed in employees and services," Stolen said.

In the business world there are those people who have a good understanding of business, but have little understanding of computers, and vice versa, he said.

"A number of studies showed the need for this type of degree," Stolen said.

The advantages to the new MIS degree

could give a person further advancement up the career ladder. This type of degree opens up opportunities for both the student and the business community, Stolen said.

The requirement for a graduate in MIS master's degree consists of 36 credit hours. Of those 36 credit hours, 24 credit hours are required courses, and the other 12 credit hours are electives in computer science and business management.

A person with any type of undergraduate degree may get an MIS graduate degree, but if the person does not have a business degree they will have to take additional classes, Stolen said.

"The requirements are similar to the requirements of an MBA," Stolen said.

The State Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) still has to pass the master's degree before it becomes an official graduate program at UNO, he said.

120 students showed strong interest and potential enrollment for this degree. Classes are being constructed for the fall semester which will be similar to those being required in the MIS program, Stolen said.

The actual effective date for the master's degree depends on the CCPE's approval. Until the program is approved, the College of Business Administration will use the classes as an introductory course in manage-

See Degree, Page 4

## IN CHILDREN'S



From left, Robert Graham, Ray Guenther and Dan Sullivan stand with the Capow van.

## Educators, Parents Tackle Youth Violence

By Husiela Farani

The Nebraska Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (NAMCD) will discuss strategies for dealing with youth violence at their fifth annual conference March 10.

Thomas Parham, of the University of California at Irvine, will be the keynote speaker.

"Parham is an exceptional speaker and brings an excellent background on understanding the multicultural perspective," said Mary Mudd, assistant vice chancellor of student development services.

Parham was recently voted national president-elect of the Association of Black Psychologists and he is an active member of the American Psychological Association.

"The issue of violence is important in today's society. We are all concerned about the involvement of so many young people in crime and violence," she said.

Mudd believes that changes in society, especially in the composition of the family, have made it difficult for children to understand right and wrong.

"There are more single-parent families and no matter how hard a parent works, sometimes it is just not enough," she said.

To find a solution, society and youth need to reach out to each other, she said.

"Who is seeking them (the youth) out and who are they seeking out? It works both ways," she said.

Mudd feels that young people have not learned to seek out help.

"Part of what we train is that we all need help and that seeking out help is not the 'wimpy' thing to do," she said.

Children need to be taught how to deal with conflict, Mudd said.

"Perhaps that is the most important thing we can teach them," she said. "Conflict resolution is a concept that is taking new meaning, we have to teach kids how to back away from situations," she said.

Mudd hopes that this conference will bring together educators, the criminal justice system and people who are genuinely concerned about the problem, to develop a plan for the future.

"If we don't talk about the issue, there is going to be more violence and drying up of resources. I don't think anyone of us looks forward to that," she said.

The conference will be held at the Ramada Inn Airport, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Full-time students can attend the conference at a discount price of \$32, if they register before March 3.

## NEWS bits

### Improving Health-Care Quality Topic of Seminar

UNO's College of Continuing Studies is offering a new non-credit seminar, "Making Quality Happen in Your Health-Care Organization," on March 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center.

Call 595-2308 for more information or to register.

### CDC Director to Speak On Preventative Medicine

David Satcher, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will be at the University of Nebraska Medical Center today from noon to 1 p.m. to discuss the role of preventative medicine.

The lecture, sponsored by the department of preventative and societal medicine and the College of Medicine, will be in the Eppley Science Hall, third floor amphitheater.

### Aviation Institute OK'd For Aviation Specialization

UNO's Aviation Institute has been approved to offer an aviation specialization through the master's of public administration, master's of science in urban studies and doctorate in public administration graduate programs.

The institute offers a variety of aviation classes that support graduate students in aviation administration research and case writing methods.

## From Spending, Page 1

from an institution.

The Congressional Record states, the most dramatic effect on students will be the changes in the Pell Grant government funding program. The administration would increase the maximum Pell Grant for the 1996 academic year.

It says the administration would split eligible candidates into two major groups: those seeking academic degrees and those pursuing non-degree programs. The non-degree programs would include all trade schools, community colleges and other institutions.

According to the Congressional Record, the Republican party intends to terminate 68 elementary, secondary and higher education programs. The projected savings from these expenditures is an estimated \$765 million dollars.

But after the termination, how will this effect student services and financial aid?

"What most students realize is that after the possible elimination of these programs (work study), their student services will suffer as well as the availability of financial aid. There

ments more interesting," Sullivan said.

"All the kids love it. The loud noises and the smoke gets them interested in the sciences," said Julie Gittens, a UNO senior in secondary education. Gittens, who plans to teach natural sciences to grades 7-12, works with Sullivan on his demonstrations.

Gittens said it's important for young girls to see women involved in science.

Gittens and Patty Mancuso, another UNO education student, volunteer their time to conduct the experiments.

"I'm doing this to get experience, because someday I'll be teaching these kids," Gittens said. "Dr. Sullivan is a great teacher. I enjoy watching him."

Sullivan said his experiments use chemicals that are visually interesting for children. The van can safely transport such chemicals as carbon dioxide and liquid nitrogen (dry ice), he said.

One experiment involves liquid nitrogen which looks like water, but is actually a gas, he said. Liquid nitrogen is poured into a beaker containing a racquet ball. When the ball drops on the ground, it shatters like glass instead of bouncing, he said.

The physics and chemistry departments also took part in Celebrate UNO, a weekend fair and outreach program that invited the community to visit UNO, he said.

An outreach program they currently take part in is the discovery center located in the atrium of the Durham Science Center.

"It's a hands-on place, like a modern science museum. There are lots of creative people in our department store room and shop room that help to put it together," Sullivan said.

is no way that we could replace all the student workers with full-time employees," Nish said.

This means to the students across the country, slower food service, longer waiting periods in lines for services, or services that would be terminated altogether.

"As of right now we don't know a lot about these possible eliminations. It's all up in the air right now," said Rick Carlson, assistant director of student employment in a telephone interview.

Carlson said the Appropriations Committee is reviewing the governmental expenditures and is currently receiving input from advocates, researchers and other groups as it makes plans for the fiscal 1996 educational budget.

"We face the possible end to the 'Earn as You Learn' policy that we have here (student employment)," Nish said, and urges students to do their part in trying to keep the programs.

"Make your voices heard by E-mailing, writing and telephoning your local and state representatives to save the services that we have here and across the country."

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## LETTERS

### 'Dedicated Teachers Few and Far Between'

Dear Editor:

Since the beginning of my time at UNO, it has always been the level of apathy that has left me with a bad taste in my mouth. It is probably why many people don't like UNO. It leaves students out of the decision process on the curriculum while the elders run Dodge Street High. The apathy is so bad that last fall I even had an instructor encourage cheating! (When he could bother to take time out of his busy schedule to make it to class.) Well, for my part, someone finally pushed the wrong button.

Roughly two years ago, some students in my Russian language class decided that we would try to petition the university into offering some sort of real Russian program. We began by distributing petitions and obtaining hundreds of signatures. Students weren't signing up to be Russian majors or even to take a year of Russian. They were trying to influence the number of choices they were offered as "consumers" of higher education.

The university apparently heard our plea. I know this not because I received a response from the chancellor, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences or the chair of the foreign language department. I know this because my current Russian instructor will be resigning from the university after this semester.

Kathryn McCormack, Ph.D., has for the past seven years spent her time teaching all of UNO's Russian language classes part-time. Teaching a different level of class each night of the week and preparing class materials during the day, she attempts to give us the same quality and variety as a normal day class. While the national numbers, and even the numbers at UNL, have dropped for Russian, McCormack's classes have held steady and she is the reason.

Since the quality of the texts available was poor, she supplied materials from her own pocket to supplement the class. She has spent hours of her personal time on Saturday mornings with any of her students who are willing, reading the Russian newspaper or just speaking Russian. She has cooked us Russian meals, introduced us to her friends in the émigré community, even attended a Serbian Orthodox midnight Mass with anyone who wanted to see Eastern Orthodox religion in action. For third-year students, she basically transcribed the text materials we use for translating practice. Almost all of the audio and visual supplies that are available for the classes have come from her personal supply and pocket. The lab fee for language classes provides basically nothing for Russian.

Now that the university has decided to hire a Russian professor in the department of foreign languages, they have basically set a condition that specifically disqualifies McCormack. They didn't have the common courtesy to call her and notify her that they were going to be hiring for a position. This is not to say they did not follow the rules and post the job in professional journals. It is only to say that those who made the decisions felt they "were under no obligation" to notify her. When some students went to talk to the chair of the foreign language department, they were apparently told that the decision was university politics and they wouldn't understand it.

As we all know, the end-all-be-all of a university position is a tenured professorship. With this move, the College of Arts and Sciences and the foreign language department have bypassed someone with a true love for what they do and outstanding commitment to her students. They not only have made a poor decision, they may well have cost students a fine instructor.

Rich Rezek  
UNO Student

### O.J. May Make Hail Mary Play

Can you really feel sorry for O.J.?

The man who had everything; you name it—he had it. If he could buy it, the man owned it. And now it looks as if he may be able to buy his freedom.

Even though each person is innocent until proven guilty, now that the trial is underway, there is some strong and convincing evidence that O.J. is guilty. But not necessarily enough to dispel the degree of reasonable doubt.

What about the man before the trial and the murders? With rumors of drug use and numerous cases of domestic violence against his wife, Nicole, the former Heisman-winning football superstar seemed to be living a life of imperfections and facades.

Now, appearing on behalf of the pros-

## COLUMN

Marylynne Ziembra

ecution and testifying under oath, Nicole Brown Simpson's family is coming out and saying that O.J. Simpson repeatedly beat and mistreated his wife.

But why didn't they stop O.J., press charges or demand justice, as they seem to be doing so prominently now in front of the TV cameras? Could it be that they were so disillusioned by Simpson's wealth and power that they were willing to use Nicole as merely a vehicle for their own status?

Clearly, no one person is either guilty or innocent in the string of events that began with the meeting of O.J. and Nicole, and has yet to conclude.

But what about O.J.?

Watching the infamous police chase of the white Bronco, I could hardly feel sorry for the man who had everything a person could possibly want—a successful career, a healthy bank account, a beautiful wife and children and a prestigious and glamorous life.

But instead, as it appears, O.J., driven by his own jealousy, acted out in rage and killed his own wife and her male friend. It seems as if, according to O.J., if he couldn't have her, no one could.

What happened on that one fateful night is all speculation, and regardless of what any of us says, what really matters is what the jury thinks. But as far as my pity for O.J. goes, all I see in the man who sits with his "Dream Team" of defense attorneys is a man who is only a product of his own environment he created for himself. Simply, he made his bed, and now he is going to have to sleep in it.

### The Gateway:

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### 'Words Can Work Magic'

Have you ever thought about the power of a written word? Have you ever wondered if you were personally able to put together many words to say something valuable and important even if it is only for yourself? I have pondered these questions and more in what most people call a journal.

When I first started writing, it was in a form of a diary. As I got older I wrote in a journal. The difference between a diary and a journal is a diary is a record of day by day activities without really going into any detail. A journal takes it a few steps further. A journal expands on one concept and gives meaning and detail to the daily record, event or idea.

After becoming a prime candidate of writer's block syndrome (a nasty syndrome which

creeps up on you before you realize you

can no longer fill those growing empty pages in your journal), I relearned the journal concept after

I took a class through

UNO called "Personal Writing."

David Martin, a teacher at Central High School and UNO, instructs the class. Martin strongly believes in the power of a journal. After I took the class, I learned ways to develop my writing skills. It made me interested in taking writing seriously as a career, and the class helped me take a personal look at myself on the inside. In the class, you are required to keep a journal consisting of at least 100 pages, typed and double spaced, to receive an "A" for the class.

We were also required to read a text called "The Artist Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity" by Julia Cameron. The book is written in a similar format to that of a 12-step recovery program. In the textbook, the author teaches ways to break the writer's block syndrome, ways to find greater creativity in a person's writing and life, and a literal spiritual path to journal writing.

The conjunction of Martin, the required

texts and the atmosphere of the classroom, make the personal writing class a way for someone to relax and become more aware of the importance of journal writing.

I personally believe that journal writing is a therapeutic outlet for the thoughts, worries and stresses all people run into. My journal has become a friend, listener and counselor to me. When life seems to be the same old stuff—different day, I can count on my journal to liven me up.

It may seem silly to call a notebook a friend, but when you get used to talking to paper, it becomes quite logical. I have met many people who enjoy "paper talking" also known as journal writing as a philosophy of life. Some of those people I met in Martin's class.

Now I understand there are some people who feel they cannot write a good sentence, let alone write in a book every day. I have to ask you, how would you know until you tried? Journal writing

is not only for people who want to be writers and journalists. Journal writing is for doctors, lawyers, artists, housewives, children and adults. Everyone should take the time to let out their thoughts where no one can judge them for who or what they are. A journal allows a person to be whomever they want, but most of all it touches the creative person trapped inside us. We were once all children, therefore we are all creative. I dare anyone to show me an uncreative child.

Here's my advice for the day, take some time to write a phrase or two. See if you like writing as an outlet for the day's activities or just for fun. This is a concept only you can decide to use or ignore. I would also suggest to you, if you are interested in learning better techniques or just want to have scheduled time to write, take Martin's personal writing class in your future career at UNO.

Finally, as Martin told us many times in his class, "Write on."

## COLUMN

Mindy Hauptman

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# NEWS AND FEATURES

## Sleeping Patterns Affect Learning

By Theresa Vondra

If you have been falling asleep in class, there may be a reason other than a boring professor. It may be sleep deprivation.

Sleep deprivation, as Darrell Conrad, coordinator for the sleep center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center defines it, is the voluntary or involuntary loss of sleep or selective sleep stages.

Conrad said there are two categories of causes for sleep deprivation: physiological and self-imposed. The physiological causes include headaches, stress, sickness, insomnia, chronic pain of any kind and sleep apnea, he said.

Sleep apnea is a sleep disorder characterized by periods of an absence of attempts to breathe. The person is momentarily unable to move respiratory muscles or maintain airflow through the nose and mouth, according to a medical resource dictionary.

"Snoring is a primary symptom of obstructive sleep apnea," Conrad said.

The self-imposed causes include: working two jobs, the intake of caffeine, nicotine and alcohol, erratic hours, inactive type behaviors and environmental factors such as light, sound and temperature in the sleeping area, Conrad said.

"Alcohol fragments sleep because of the withdrawal of alcohol from the system during sleep," Conrad said.

Shift workers generally have poor sleep habits because they alter their sleep and wake schedule to match the 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. world, he said. Crossing time zones can also cause the body's natural rhythms to get out of phase, he said.

As a general guideline, if sleep is disturbed for more than one month and it interferes with daily activities or functions, you should see your doctor, Conrad said.

Treatments the sleep center uses include surgical treatments, such as removing or altering tonsils, adenoids, the uvula or a mass narrowing the airway, Conrad said. Non-surgical treatments include a nasal continuous positive airway pressure device which people wear at night while sleeping to hold the airway open, he said.

"The muscle tone that keeps the airway open during the day relaxes at night when you sleep," Conrad said.

A good way to determine if a person is getting enough sleep is to monitor how dependent they are on alarm clocks.

If you need your alarm to wake up each morning, Conrad said, you aren't getting needed sleep.

Some tips to help deepen sleep include: exercise, although not within two or three hours of bed; regular bed and awakening times, with awakening times more important; establishing pre-sleep rituals such as a light snack, light reading or a warm bath and having a regular schedule for meals and chores, Conrad said.

"I would suggest no caffeine, alcohol or smoking for Sec Sleep, Page 6

From Peck, Page 1

want to attempt to fix something that is not broken."

"We need to re-evaluate higher learning in society," Peck said. "People will change jobs five or six times during their professional life. After a few years people may find their knowledge base out-moded. Education should be a life-long continuous process."

Peck grew up in Port Arthur, Texas with his brother, Jerry. He is a graduate of Rice University in Houston and has two sons from a previous marriage, David, 29, and John, 25, who attend the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Southern California, respectively. His wife, Fran, also has a son, Mike, 14.

Peck will bring a great deal of academic achievement, ranging from undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rice, to several

awards, such as National Merit Scholar recognition. He has also studied and taught at Purdue, Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Peck also served as program director for the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., before taking his current post at UNLV.

"I have been looking for an institution where I could serve as the chief academic officer," Peck said. "I think UNO has an exiting future and opportunity. Chancellor Weber defined to me his views of the future for UNO. His views and my wishes were very similar."

"The faculty at UNO had a 'can-do' attitude when I visited," Peck said. "I would like to see faculty and student empowerment. I wish to have all people involved in decision-making. I think this already exists at UNO."

"I think he will be a very, very effective advocate for the

From Degree, Page 1

ment information systems, and part of the course selection of a master's of business administration.

"We just want to be prepared for those people who have an interest in this master's program," Stolen said.

Along with the requirements of the degree, UNO will have to add an additional professor and an assistant professor to the CBA staff. The money for the project and additional staff will come from reallocation of existing resources. UNO is looking nationally for the new faculty positions, Stolen said.

"The prime force for the development was that the business community needed this," Stolen said.

University," said James Malek, UNO dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Malek knew Peck when they were both at UNLV. Malek was dean of liberal arts for UNLV at the time.

"While Dr. Peck was dean for science and mathematics, the college grew in status," Malek said.

Malek said he believes Peck will be a good spokesman and a strong vice chancellor.

Malek described Peck as an interesting person.

"Dr. Peck is Cajun, and he loves cooking, especially Cajun food," Malek said.

"My father was full-blooded Cajun from southern Louisiana, and my mother was from the northern part of the state. They brought an interesting culinary background," Peck said. "My mother tried to teach my brother and me that men should not be dependent on anyone to cook."

"The Cajun food I cook is more traditional, home-style food. I don't cook the blackened fish or chicken, that's more of an avant garde Cajun style," Peck said.

Peck described himself as "not flamboyant." He and his wife don't spend time on Las Vegas' famous "Strip."

"Las Vegas is really like two different cities. The Las Vegas we live in is very much like Omaha," Peck said.

Peck and his wife share several interests. He described both himself and his wife as avid readers, as well as sharing an interest in cooking and photography, which Fran has placed second in a few competitions.

"I cook two or three meals a week. Fran will cook three or so, and Mike will cook one as well."

Such interests continue from one city to another, making the move to Omaha a bit easier.

"I will miss my friends I've made over the last five years," Peck said of the move to Omaha. "UNLV is a fine school and I will miss some of its finer points, but it's all part of the phases of life."

"Fran and I are both excited about moving to Omaha," Peck said.



—Peck

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# INTERMISSION

stories by kathleen peek

## ETV Network Programs Entertainment

The Nebraska ETV Network will broadcast the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) women's gymnastics invitational Sunday at 2 p.m.

Sportscaster Bill Doleman and former All-American gymnast Neil Palmer will cover the competition at the Bob Devaney Sports Center at UNL. Palmer is a former UNL gymnast.

UNL athletes will compete against athletes from George Washington University, North Carolina State and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

"The Man Who Drew Bug-Eyed Monsters" will air Monday on Nebraska ETV. It will feature the work of artist/illustrator Reynold Brown. Brown was a resident of Dawes County, Neb.

Actor Eli Wallach will narrate the documentary and presents Brown's work in a historical and social context. Among Brown's works are movie poster art for such films as "The Incredible Shrinking Man," "Tarantula!" and "This Island Earth." The film will include footage of Brown at work at his easel and of his wife, Mary Louise.

"The Man Who Drew Bug-Eyed Monsters" will be repeated March 5, at 11 a.m. The Monday program will air at 8 p.m. Both will be closed-captioned for the hearing-impaired.

## Theater Brings South To the Midwest

UNO's dramatic arts department opened its spring theater season Thursday with its performance, "Steel Magnolias."

Many people may remember the hit movie starring Dolly Parton, Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis, Daryl Hannah and Shirley MacLaine, which tells the story of six southern women and how their lives interact every Saturday at the beauty parlor.

Dan Hayes, director for the UNO production, describes the characters as "their own family outside of their everyday lives."

Hayes said "Steel Magnolias" is a sort of modern tragedy told with humor and love.

Julie Harris takes on the role of Truvy, the beauty shop owner Parton played in the movie. April Witchman and Jenni O'Rourke will play the mother-daughter roles played by Field and Roberts. Kasey Brandt will play Annette (Hannah), the new girl in town.

The cast is rounded out with Charleen Willoughby as Ouiser, the acerbic curmudgeon (MacClaine) and Ida Neary as Clairee, the late mayor's widow (Dukakis).

The dramatic arts department has a reputation for bringing quality theater to the UNO stage and "Steel Magnolias" should prove to be no exception. It's quality theater in an intimate setting for a decent price. Tickets are \$7 for the general public and \$5 for students and seniors.

"Steel Magnolias" will run tonight and Saturday and continues next week, Wednesday through Saturday. Curtain time each night is 8 p.m.

For reservations, call the University ticket office at 554-2335.



Jenni O'Rourke, seated, and Julie Harris, will be featured in the UNO production of "Steel Magnolias."

## Goldthwait Show Promises Insanity

Get ready to laugh. Bobcat Goldthwait is coming to Ak-sar-ben, thanks to UNO's Student Programming Organization (SPO).

You've probably heard of him. He's that guy with the squeaky, loud voice that sounds as if he's lost his mind. If you haven't, then you must have been living under a rock some place.

In case you're wondering, the jury is still out about whether he has lost his mind. But don't fear, insanity can be funny and Goldthwait is just the man to prove it.

He has appeared in all four "Police Academy" movies and has had several cable TV specials, including his self-directed HBO special, "Is He Like That All The Time?" One of his last major projects was "Shakes The Clown,"

which he wrote and directed.

In his own words, via his personal press statement, he called "Shakes" one of the finest "alcoholic clown movies ever made."

Currently you can hear him as the voice of a stuffed bunny in "Unhappily Ever After," a late-night comedy on Fox in which Goldthwait's character is the best part of the show.

Goldthwait's performance is Saturday at the Ak-sar-ben Coliseum at 8 p.m. Admission is \$3 for students, \$4 for UNO faculty and staff and \$8 for the general public. Tickets are available at the ticket office on the second floor of the Student Center.

For more information, call SPO at 554-2623.

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## Film Company Seeks Location for Picture

Do you know of a wooden house with lots of open land surrounding it? How about five miles of nothing but corn, or a two-lane overpass over a two-lane paved road in a rural area? If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, the Nebraska Film Office would like to hear from you.

A motion picture company is looking for filming locations and Nebraska just might be what they're looking for. The company needs a post-Civil War, Southern-style plantation house on a farm or ranch that can't be in a town or on the edge of a town. It must also have open land around it. It has to be a wooden structure with no brick showing.

The second location must be an area with five consecutive miles of corn planted on both sides of a rural road on a fairly flat land. Third, they need a two-lane overpass over a two-lane paved road. Both roads have to be paved with two-lanes and in a rural area.

If you know of any areas that fit these descriptions, contact the Nebraska Film Office at 1-800-228-4307 or 1-402-471-3797. Ask for Mary Ethel Emanuel.

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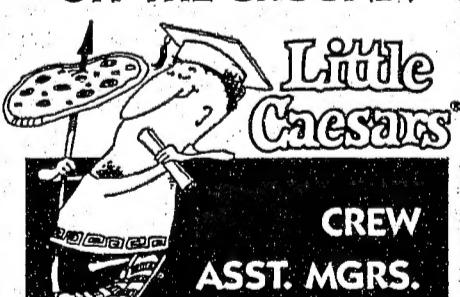
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"The demands for assistance that UNO is choosing to focus upon involve an area that can be labeled 'information technology,'" Weber said. "I believe this is an area in which UNO can and will establish a national presence. There are very few universities in this country that are poised to serve the information age. We want to be one of them."

Weber said in information technology, standards have to be met in order to measure the effectiveness UNO will have. These include quality, student enrollment, faculty involvement, responsiveness to community need and financial support.

There is an increasing need for engineers, Smith said.

"According to a study done by SRI for the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, there will be a need to educate over 1,200 new engineers (using that term most broadly) in the next five years," he said.

"Over 1,110 of these new workers would need degrees in areas of information sciences, such as computer science, computer engineering, management information systems and electronic and electrical engineering," Smith said.

The information technology program already has faculty involved, but there is not a program with a focus specifically on information technology.

"It may lead to the kinds of courses and degrees that don't even exist now," Smith said.

Plans include a master's degree in electrical engineering, environmental engineering and a computer engineering option under the computer science program.

In two months, the Regents have made substantial progress, the NU leaders said.

Where will the money come from to implement these plans?

Funds have been requested by the NU system from the Legislature.

The budget request for new faculty and new course development is about \$1.5 million each year, Smith said. The budget request for the capital items are about \$200,000 for part of the planning money for a new facility in Omaha.

Smith also said about \$200,000 will be used for immediate renovation of space on the UNO campus.

The Board of Regents voted against a separate College of Engineering at UNO, with a 5-3 vote, in their December meeting.

The Regents did decide to allocate money to improve the engineering program in the NU system.

President Smith made five recommendations to the Board of Regents.

First, needed improvements in engineering instruction. Second, increasing the number of students entering engineering and technology fields. Third, correcting deficiencies in facilities on both the UNO and UNL campuses. Fourth, coordinating management of engineering instruction. And fifth, that a separate College of Engineering at UNO would not be needed at the time.

Regent Drew Miller agreed time has not been wasted.

"We're naturally accelerating our plans," Miller said.

"We have worked vigorously in recent months for an immediate expansion of engineering programs in Omaha, and will have in place by this fall a new electronic engineering program. A construction engineering program is also under discussion," UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier said.

"That is an evolution from where we are now in Omaha," Smith said.

In addition, Smith said new faculty will be hired, and they will have mechanical and industrial engineering here on the UNO campus as a part of the expansion.

"This is the first step at pointing out we hope to have all of these programs in place, or the vast majority of them, by the fall," Smith said.

"Moving in the direction of providing the engineering needs for the state of Nebraska sends a signal that is going to be responsive and cohesive, not only to the university system, but also to businesses," Omaha Chamber of Commerce President Bob Bell said.

The potential of Micron to come to the Omaha area has encouraged the NU system to put plans in place and move aggressively forward, Spanier said. "I think that's a very positive step. It benefits not only Micron, but the telecommunications and computer-based industries in Omaha."

In regards to the possibility of Micron locating in Omaha, Smith said, "I think we can offer a lot more than Oklahoma City."

"Our view right now is that engineering education at Nebraska is seamless. Whatever is available at UNL is available to UNO in some format and vice versa," Smith said. "We're working together as a team to provide for the educational needs not only in Omaha, but throughout the rest of the state."

"We recognize we have to be an institution that's responsive to businesses. We have to change our culture, in a way, to meet those needs," Weber said.

four to six hours before bed," Conrad said.

There are five stages of sleep and a person can dream in all stages, Conrad said. The first four stages are named by their numbers, with stage one being the lightest sleep and stage four being the deepest sleep, he said. The third and fourth stages are considered Delta sleep, he said. The fifth stage is REM sleep and is most associated with dreams.

A lack of Delta sleep, deep sleep, can cause a person to be lethargic, slow thinking and have less energy, Conrad said. A lack of REM, rapid eye movement, sleep can cause a person to be irritable and short tempered, he said.

Problems that can occur because of sleep deprivation include excessive daytime sleepiness, narcolepsy and microsleeps, Conrad said.

Narcolepsy is a sudden uncontrollable disposition to sleep occurring at regular intervals with or without obvious predisposing or exciting cause usually involving an abnormality in sleep stage sequencing, according to a medical resource dictionary.

Microsleeps are short time periods where people fall asleep during the day, Conrad said. This could happen while driving or sitting in class and is the biggest immediate physical danger, he said.

"One night of sleep deprivation can cause problems," Conrad said. "Continued sleep deprivation can have a profound effect on ability to learn, memorize and absorb material in the class."

The sleep center has a clinic, where evaluations are done, and a lab, where testing by order of a physician is done, Conrad said. The number to call for the sleep center is 559-4015. The evaluations cost about \$100 to \$200 and the overnight testing costs about \$1,300, but may be covered by insurance, Conrad said.

For the evaluations, the sleep clinic will have you keep a sleep diary for two weeks to get an idea of habits and activities you have each day, he said.

"The harder you try to fall asleep, the harder it is to go to sleep," Conrad said. "You need to dissociate yourself from consciousness and put your brain in neutral."

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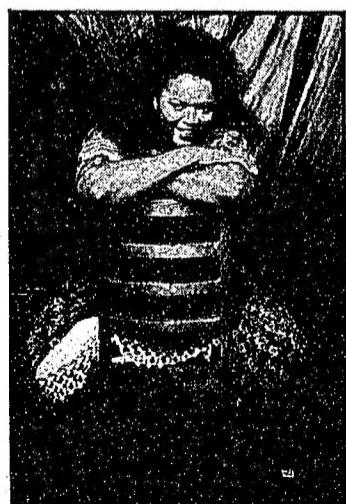
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# SPORTS

## Tryon Makes Final Appearances on Court

By Tim Rohwer

After four years and dozens of basketball games, UNO's Shonna Tryon will run out onto the home court for the last two times when the Mavs host South Dakota and Morningside this weekend.

Tryon, a 6-foot-1-inch center and the only senior on the team, said she has mixed emotions about her final home appearances.

"It's sad because I'll miss the team. Yet, I'm excited about graduating, getting a job and starting a new chapter in my life," said Tryon, an accounting major who will graduate in May. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to play at UNO and getting a great education. The people in this program, as well as my professors and the administration, have all been great."

Some may think being the only senior would create more pressure than normal for being the team leader.

Tryon said she didn't encounter that, thanks to the talents and experience of her teammates.

"We have a lot of young people on this team with experience, so it took the pressure of leadership off me," she said.

That experience should help the team in the future, possibly the present, Tryon said.

"I think we still have a good shot at the regionals this year. If not, then next year we'll have a lot of talent. If the players work hard during the off-season and I know they will, the team should be very successful," she said.

While Tryon praised the talents of her teammates, Coach Cherri Mankenberg returned the compliments.

"Shonna has done a great job for us and is an excellent role model for our players," she said.

It would be nice to say Tryon will finish her career holding a championship trophy. That could still happen, but the chances are quite remote.

"We can't lose our remaining games. One

loss will kill us," Mankenberg said.

In the latest North Central Region standings, the Mavs have dropped to sixth place. The top four teams are selected for the regional playoffs.

Last week, the Mavs were fifth with a better shot at making the post-season list. Now, it's Minnesota at Duluth that holds the fifth spot.

"I'm very disappointed about the standings," Mankenberg said. "The regional committee felt that Duluth had a significant win over Southwest Minnesota State which isn't that good a team."

The Mavs, who are on a three-game losing streak which has dropped them to 12-11 overall and 6-8 in the North Central Conference (NCC), play South Dakota tonight and Morningside on Saturday. Both games start at 6 p.m.

UNO beat these teams earlier in the season, but they'll still be a challenge, Mankenberg said.

"South Dakota is a good team. They beat

Augustana twice," she said. UNO lost both of its games to Augustana.

"Morningside's a very tall team and they have a lot of depth," Mankenberg said. "They throw a lot of different things at you all the time."

Depth is something that could hurt the Mavs because junior guard Linda Roh, who suffered a rib injury in a game two weeks ago, is still doubtful for these contests.

"Linda is our best defensive player and a good shooter. I'm really concerned about that," Mankenberg said of Roh's status.

For these last two home games and Tryon's finale, Mankenberg said she hopes the students, faculty and staff respond with their presence.

"When you have a good crowd, it really makes a great difference at home," she said. "When we went to South Dakota earlier in the year, we had a lot of people come up to watch us and that helped us in that win."

## Mavs Play Last Home Games

By Tim Rohwer

Attention, UNO sports fans.

This weekend is the last chance of the season to see the Maverick men's basketball team at home.

UNO plays South Dakota tonight and Morningside on Saturday. Both games start at 8 p.m.

Assistant Coach Neil Elliott said he's hoping for good crowds to help the team and to impress television viewers. KYNE-TV will televise Saturday's game.

"If we have good crowds, it will show positive strides in our program, as well as having a good appearance for television. And that may get some people more interested in us," he said.

The Mavs are coming off a disappointing two-game loss on their trip to North Dakota last weekend. But they're not down in the dumps, Elliott said.

"They've had some good practices this week.

They've seemed to have responded very well," he said. "At this point, we're struggling with our shooting, but we're more comfortable at home. Playing at home this weekend should help our overall confidence."

UNO enters these games with a 10-13 overall record and 4-10 in the North Central Conference (NCC). South Dakota is 18-5 and 9-5, while Morningside is 19-5 and 9-5.

Earlier in the year the Mavs lost 82-72 at South Dakota, and 91-82 at Morningside.

The Mavs lead 33-28 in the series against the Coyotes and 43-37 against the Chiefs.

Despite being under .500, the team's effort has impressed the coaches, Elliott said.

"Their effort has been good, except for a game here and there. They haven't had a lapse in competitiveness all year long," he said.

The Mavs finish their season next weekend on the road at St. Cloud State and Mankato State. If they win these final four games, the Mavs will have a winning season, a goal they set at the start of the season, Elliott said.

"We have a chance to win all four games for a winning season. It's going to be tough, but we continue to have that goal," he said. "We'd like to finish strong and carry that momentum over for next season."

One of the leaders for the Mavs this weekend is junior center John Skokan, who's averaging eight points and more than 10 rebounds per game.

Skokan currently has 689 career rebounds, which is No. 4 on the all-time UNO list. He trails No. 3 Nate McMorris by 68. The all-time leader is Phil Cartwright with 946 rebounds.

## Track Team Heads for Finish Line

By Tim Rohwer

For several weeks, Tim Hendricks, UNO's indoor track coach, has heaped praise on this year's squad, calling it possibly the best Maverick team ever.

This weekend, his runners will try to measure up to that comment at the most important event of the season, the North Central Conference (NCC) championship.

Though not favored to win, UNO could have its best finish in a long time.

"We have a legitimate shot at finishing third which would be the highest under my rein

(since 1986) and the highest finish ever with all 10 NCC schools," Hendricks said, adding that UNO finished first a couple of times in the late 1970s when only five schools took part.

"With the overall performances, I think we have the best track team ever at UNO," he said.

Hendricks said North Dakota State, the host school of the two-day event which starts today, and South Dakota State are the only squads that will probably have too much talent for the Mavs.

"I don't think anybody will challenge North Dakota State, and South Dakota State is as

See Run, Page 8

## INTRAMURAL SPORTS



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## WEEKEND WEATHER



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**Friday evening**  
Fair skies  
Southerly breeze  
9 p.m. temp: mid 40s

**Saturday**  
Partly to mostly sunny  
Breezy and warm  
High: 66°  
Low: 34°

**Sunday**  
Partly cloudy  
Northerly breeze  
High: 60°  
Low: 35°

From-Run, Page 7

strong in the same events as we are. I think we're just as tough, but they have more numbers. They can spread their kids around without overworking them," he said.

To finish high, UNO must do well in the shorter races in the early part of the meet, Hendricks said.

"We must score well in the sprints, the 55-yard dash and hurdles, the long jump, the 500-meter and the mile relay," he said. "We also need help from other schools, such as St. Cloud State. It has three shot putters and we hope they can beat Augustana and Mankato State in that event, because we won't be a factor."

Expected to challenge the Mavs for the third spot are Augustana, Mankato and South Dakota, Hendricks said.

There's always a big concern in those shorter races, he said.

"If you make a mistake in a long run, you have time to make up for it. In a short race, such as the 55-meter, there's not much of a chance to make it up. There's little room for error in those events, and there's always a little luck involved," Hendricks said.

If individual standings are any indications, UNO should certainly finish strong. Senior Linda Vondras has a third-place ranking in the NCC in the long jump and first in the 55-meter dash, while freshman Tina Ellis is second in that dash. Freshman Carrie Butler is second in the 400-meter event and Elise Henry, another freshman, is third in the 1,000.

Senior Jennifer Kennedy is fourth in the 1,000.

UNO prepared for the NCC event by taking part in two meets last weekend.

Last Friday at a meet in Lincoln, Butler finished second in the 400 meters with a time of 58.87 seconds, while Kennedy placed third in the 5,000 meters with a time of 18:47.85 minutes.

"That was her best time of the year," Hendricks said of Kennedy's performance.

The following day at a meet at the University of South Dakota, Vondras finished third in the long jump with an effort of 18.5 feet. The 4 x 200-meter relay team finished second with a time of 1:45.57.

The relay team consists of Vondras, Ellis, senior Kim Osler and freshman Jaime Erkes.

"Our handoffs (with the baton) were poor. I think a couple

of them weren't watching what they were doing. Hopefully, they'll be more focused this week," Hendricks said.

Regardless of how the Mavs do this weekend, Hendricks is assured of taking three of his runners to the NCAA Division II championship in Indianapolis in two weeks.

They are Vondras, who will compete in the long jump and 55-meter dash, Osler in the 55-meter hurdles and Ellis in the 55-meter dash. Butler has a chance to qualify in the 400-meter race.

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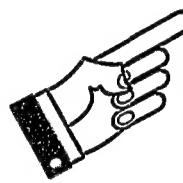
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